

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are present in this application.

Favorable consideration and allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Note that the undersigned would welcome contact from the Examiner to discuss any issues pertaining to the patentability of the claims of the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner of hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The speech coding method of claim 1, further comprising changing a noise level of time series vectors [stored in] output from the excitation codebooks based on the evaluation result of the noise level of the speech.

8. (Amended) The speech decoding method of claim 6, further comprising changing a noise level of time series vectors [stored in] output from the excitation codebooks based on the evaluation result of the noise level of the speech.

New claims 15-18 have been added.